(c) and (d) Programme matters of Doordarshan fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati and the Government do not decide upon these. It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that in the present competitive environment, it is necessary for Doordarshan to maintain consistently high quality of programming besides exploring revenue potential. The centralized programming for these kendras will give exposure to the local producers on the whole Hindi network. Also the time band from 5.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. is still available to these kendras for telecasting specific types of programmes produced by the local producers. In addition, talent of such producers will also be utilized in the envisaged 24 hour regional satellite service. In view of this, Prasar Bharati do not propose to reverse the decision.

FM stations in Karnataka

1902. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many FM stations are in Karnataka;

(b) how many FM stations are proposed to be set up in Karnataka;

(c) whether Karnataka Government has requested to allot FM stations to newly formed districts; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Presently, 7 FM Stations located at Hassan, Chitradurga, Hospet, Raichur, Mercare, Karwar and Bijapur are functioning in Karnataka.

(b) Five FM Stations with 10 FM Transmitter at Bangalore, Mysore, Mangalore and Dharwad are proposed to be set up in Karnataka. Out of these, four FM Transmitters are being set up in replacement of existing 1 KW MW Transmitters.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.